

In the Claims:

1-23 (cancelled).

24(cancelled)

25(amended). The tape cassette according to claim 33 24, wherein said means for inserting and removing comprises a plurality of posts and an equal plurality of bobbins releasably accommodated on a respective one of said posts, each of said bobbins defining a surface and each of said posts having a datum surface which interacts with said surface of its ~~respective~~ the bobbin such that it defines the position of said bobbin in the axial direction of said post.

26(amended). The tape cassette according to claim 33 24, said tape cassette further having means for supporting the tape supply, wherein the tape is at least one of an ink ribbon tape and an image receiving tape, and wherein said image receiving tape comprises an image receiving layer and a releasable backing layer.

27(cancelled).

28(previously amended). The tape cassette according to claim 25, wherein tapes of different widths are associated with said bobbins, the tapes defining a center line, and wherein said surfaces of said bobbins are positioned so that the center line of the tapes is located in the same plane intersecting said surfaces of said bobbins, independent of the width of the tape.

29(previously added). The tape cassette according to claim 25, wherein each of said bobbins defines an internal flange, and wherein a rib is defined by one of said posts and bobbins which nb mates with said internal flange of said bobbin so that said bobbin is releasably retained on its respective post.

30(previously amended). The tape cassette according to claim 29, wherein tapes of different widths are associated with said bobbins, the tapes defining a center line, and wherein said surfaces of said bobbins are positioned so that the center line of the tapes is located in the same plane intersecting said surfaces of said bobbins independent of the width of the tape.

31(cancelled).

32(amended). The tape cassette according to claim 33 ~~34~~, wherein each spring is unitary with one of said bobbin and said housing.

33(amended). ~~The tape cassette according to claim 34~~ A tape cassette for accommodating a supply of printable tape and suitable for being detachably loaded in a tape printing device, the tape cassette having: means for inserting and removing a tape supply into said tape cassette; and means whereby said tape cassette selectively accommodates tape supplies of different tape width, said tape cassette further having: a housing; and a spring located between a respective bobbin and a part of said housing, said spring slipping on one of said housing and said bobbin and providing a back tension to the tape of the bobbin with which it is located, wherein each bobbin includes a flange, wherein each spring interacts with said flange of the bobbin with which it is located, and wherein the relative position of said flange with respect to its associated post, and thus the backward tension applied to the tape by said associated spring is a function of the width of the tape.

34(previously amended). The tape cassette according to claim 50, wherein each spring is unitary with one of said associated bobbin and said housing.

35(previously amended). The tape cassette according to claim 24, said tape cassette further having: a housing including a base on which the tape supply can be releasably fixed, said base having a bottom surface which extends orthogonally to a center plane of said tape supply, said tape supply being releasably retained on said bottom surface, and wherein said tape supply is freely accessible from the side of said base opposite to said bottom surface, said tape cassette having thereby the form of an open chassis.

36(Amended). ~~The tape cassette according to claim 35~~ A tape cassette for accommodating a supply of printable tape and suitable for being detachably loaded in a tape printing device, the tape cassette having: means for inserting and removing a tape supply into said tape cassette; and means whereby said tape cassette selectively accommodates tape supplies of different tape width, said tape cassette further having: a housing including a base on which the tape supply can be releasably fixed, said base having a bottom surface which extends orthogonally to a center plane of said tape supply, said tape supply being releasably retained on said bottom surface, and wherein said tape supply is freely accessible from the side of said base opposite to said bottom surface, said tape cassette having thereby the form

of an open chassis, said tape cassette further having: a lid situated opposite to said bottom surface, and wherein the distance between said bottom surface and said lid varies with the width of the tape.

37(previously amended). The tape cassette according to claim 51, said tape cassette further having: a pin, wherein one of said base and said lid has a hole for accommodating said pin, said pin serving to guide said lid relative to said base.

38(previously amended). The tape cassette according to claim 51, said tape cassette further having: at least one clip for securing said lid to said base, wherein said clips are located on one of said lid and said base, and wherein said clips interacts with a surface on one of said lid and said base and said interaction is a function of the tape width.

39(previously added). The tape cassette according to claim 26, wherein said means for inserting and removing includes a supply spool and a take-up spool, and a holder, said supply spool and said take-up spool being fixed to said holder such that their relative position corresponds to their position when they are inserted in said tape cassette, and wherein said ink ribbon is provided on said supply spool and said take-up spool

40(previously added). The tape cassette according to claim 39, wherein said holder comprises means for defining a path for said ink ribbon tape, said defined path corresponding to the path of said ink ribbon when it is inserted into said tape cassette.

41(previously added). The tape cassette according to claim 39, wherein said supply spool and said take-up spool for said ink ribbon are releasably secured by said holder against rotation, such that said tape cassette is in an operable state when said ink ribbon is mounted in said tape cassette, but released from said holder.

42. (cancelled).

43(amended). ~~The tape cassette according to claim 39,~~ A tape cassette for accommodating a supply of printable tape and suitable for being detachably loaded in a tape printing device, the tape cassette having: means for inserting and removing a tape supply into said tape cassette; and means whereby said tape cassette selectively accommodates tape supplies of different tape width, said tape cassette further having means for supporting the tape supply, wherein the tape is at least one of an ink ribbon tape and an image receiving tape comprising an image receiving layer and a releasable backing layer, wherein said means for

inserting and removing includes a supply spool and a take-up spool, and a holder, said supply spool and said take-up spool being fixed to said holder such that their relative position corresponds to their position when they are inserted in said tape cassette, and wherein said ink ribbon is provided on said supply spool and take-up spool, and wherein said holder comprises a lid covering at least a part of said tape cassette.

44(amended). The tape cassette according to claim 43 24, said tape cassette further having: a housing including a base on which the tape supply can be releasably fixed, said base having a bottom surface which extends parallel to a center plane of said tape supply, and a lid situated opposite to said bottom surface, and wherein said tape supply is releasably fixed to said lid.

45. (cancelled).

46(amended). The tape cassette according to claim 43, A tape cassette for accommodating a supply of printable tape which is suitable for being detachably loaded in a tape printing device, the tape cassette having: a housing comprising a base on which the tape supply can be releasably fixed, a hinge, and a lid fixed to said base by means of said hinge, said base, said lid, and said hinge formed to be unitary.

47(cancelled).

48(cancelled).

49(cancelled).

50(previously added). A tape cassette for accommodating a supply of printable tape and suitable for being detachably loaded in a tape printing device, the tape cassette having: means for inserting and removing a tape supply into said tape cassette; means whereby said tape cassette selectively accommodates tape supplies of different tape widths; and a spring located between a bobbin and a part of said housing, said spring slipping on one of said housing and said bobbin and providing a back tension to the tape of the bobbin with which it is located, wherein: each bobbin includes a flange, and each spring intersects with said flange of the bobbin with which it is located; and wherein the relative position of said flange with respect to its associated post, and thus the backward tension applied to the tape by said associated spring is a function of the width of the tape.

51(previously added). A tape cassette for accommodating a supply of printable tape and suitable for being detachably loaded in a tape printing device, the tape cassette having: means for inserting and removing a tape supply into said tape cassette; means whereby said tape cassette selectively accommodates tape supplies of different tape width; a housing including a base on which the tape supply can be releasably fixed, said base having a bottom surface which extends orthogonally to a center plane of said tape supply, said tape supply being releasably retained on said bottom surface; and a lid situated opposite to said bottom surface, wherein said tape supply is freely accessible from the side of said base opposite to said bottom surface, said tape cassette having thereby the form of an open chassis, and wherein the distance between said bottom surface and said lid varies with the width of the tape.

52(previously added) A tape cassette for accommodating a supply of printable tape and suitable for being detachably loaded in a tape printing device, the tape cassette having: means for inserting and removing the tape supply into said tape cassette; means whereby said tape cassette selectively accommodates tape supplies of different tape widths; tear-off tape; and means for supporting the tape supply, wherein: the tape is at least one of an ink ribbon tape and an image receiving tape, said image receiving tape comprising an image receiving layer and a releasable backing layer; said means for inserting and removing includes a supply spool and a take-up spool, and a holder; said supply spool and said take-up spool being fixed to said holder such that their relative position corresponds to their position when they are inserted in said tape cassette; said ink ribbon is provided on said supply spool and said take-up spool; said supply spool and said take-up spool for said ink ribbon are releasably secured by said holder against rotation, such that said tape cassette is in an operable state when said ink ribbon is mounted in said tape cassette, but released from said holder, and wherein said supply spool and said take-up spool of said ink ribbon are fixed to said holder by said tear-off tape.